

whereas in an uncoupled state each individual sprocketed wheel can rotate relative to the others and to the shaft.

These features are disclosed in the specification page 6, lines 1-15, and page 9, lines 10-19.

No such feature is found in any of the art of record. This feature allows assembly of a conveyor system without use of bolts and angular slots which are time consuming to provide and more expensive in the manufacture of the sprocketed wheels of a typical conveyor system. Thus the invention achieves the added benefit in that the axial dimension of a cluster of sprocketed wheels, the dimension can be reduced since no bolts are necessary for providing the fixing of the sprocketed wheels.

The primary reference applied by the Examiner, Greenwell et al. (5,337,887) fails to disclose any structure related to the sprocketed wheels used in the chains of the conveyor system disclosed therein. The secondary reference to Malhiot (2,358,292) clearly shows a construction which applicant's device makes substantial improvement upon. Note that Malhiot, on page 2, column 1, lines 2-22, describes fixing a sprocketed wheel by a series of bolts (see Fig. 6, 33). Thus, Malhiot also fails to teach or suggest that which is now clearly in newly presented Claim 17. In the same manner, the other secondary reference to Middleberg et al. (5,806,659) also fails to teach or suggest this feature.

The Examiner also objected to original Claims 5, 8, 12, 13, 14 and 16 for certain informalities and newly presented claims herein have been drafted to avoid use of the words and phrases that the Examiner had objected to.

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully suggested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made.**"

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:



Leonard J. Santisi  
Attorney for Applicant

PATENT  
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Reg. No. 24,135  
(212) 588-0800

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

The Abstract has been amended as follows:

**--ABSTRACT**

Conveyor apparatus for transporting objects, having a continuous circulating guided conveyor line with drivers arranged at intervals from each other, [characterized in that] wherein the conveyor line is constructed of continuous circulating guided individual lines, each of which has drivers arranged at intervals from each other, and where the individual lines can be adjusted relative to each other in terms of their circulating positions, so that the intervals between the drivers of different individual lines can be adjusted simultaneously.--

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 1 through 16 and add the following new claims 17 through 30.

--17. (New) A conveyor apparatus for transporting objects having a plurality of continuous circulating guided conveyor lines with drivers arranged at intervals from each other wherein the conveyor line is constructed of continuously circulating individual chains each of which has respective drivers arranged at intervals from each other and wherein the individual chains can be adjusted relative to each other with respect to their circulating positions so that the intervals between the drivers of different individual chains may be adjusted simultaneously and wherein each individual chain is guided over a sprocketed wheel having rubbing flanks with the sprocketed wheels being mounted adjacent to each other on a shaft in a cluster-like manner where the cluster of sprocketed wheels are frictionally connected with each other and connected fixedly and non-rotationally to the shaft so that in an uncoupled state each individual sprocketed wheel can rotate relative to the others and to the shaft.--

--18. (New) A conveyor apparatus in accordance with Claim 17 wherein said drivers are held on each conveyor line so that they can be adjusted in the direction of transport.--

--19. (New) A conveyor apparatus in accordance with Claim 17 wherein each driver has driver strips which extend across all of the conveyor lines transversely to the direction of transport.--

--20. (New) A conveyor apparatus in accordance with Claim 17 wherein the same number of drivers are arranged on each conveyor.--

--21. (New) A conveyor apparatus in accordance with Claim 17 wherein each of the conveyors are guided over an adjusting roller comprising a guide wheel each arranged next to each other, each said guide wheel being adjustable to different rotational positions relative to another guide wheel.--

--22. (New) A conveyor apparatus in accordance with Claim 21 wherein each guide wheel is adjusted continuously relative to another guide wheel.--

--23. (New) A conveyor apparatus in accordance with Claim 21 wherein said adjusting roller is a driving device.--

--24. (New) A conveyor apparatus in accordance with Claim 17 wherein the chains are made at least partially of plastic.--

--25. (New) A conveyor apparatus in accordance with Claim 17 wherein each chain consists of links that can be locked together with each having a pin section with two cylindrical pins and a forked receptacle section with holes to receive the pins.--

--26. (New) A conveyor apparatus in accordance with Claim 25 wherein each chain link has straight top edges or flat top sides so that flat positioning surfaces are formed for objects which are to be transported.--

--27. (New) A conveyor apparatus in accordance with Claim 25 wherein each driver has strips that extend across all of the conveyor lines and said driver strips are made in a single piece with a selected on of said chain links.--

--28. (New) A conveyor apparatus in accordance with Claim 25 wherein each chain link has a meshing projection that intermeshes with a guide wheel or drive wheel.--

--29. (New) A conveyor apparatus in accordance with claim 25 wherein each chain link has straight top edges or flat sides so that flat positioning surfaces are formed for objects which are to be transported.--

End of Amendment